

DC

STEEL

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L. SIMONSON • BATISTA • FABER • PEPOY

STEEL



BATISTA-JANU 94

DIRECT SALES



7



THANK YOU, STEEL. WITHOUT YOUR EFFORTS ON METROPOLIS'S BEHALF, WE COULD NEVER HAVE DEFEATED RIFT!

I HAD RETURNED TO METROPOLIS TO FOLLOW LEADS IN MY SEARCH FOR A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION CALLED BLACK OPS.

IT WAS JUST LUCK THAT I WAS HERE TO HELP!

SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO STICK AROUND?

WE CAN USE A GOOD MAN LIKE YOU IN METROPOLIS!

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS.

BLACK OPS WAS RUN BY HAZARD, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HIS OPERATION HAS BEEN DESTROYED.

I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER, BUT, RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO GET BACK HOME.

AS MUCH AS I'VE ALWAYS LIKED METROPOLIS...

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"-- WASHINGTON IS WHERE I BELONG!"

LITTLE TYKE
CAME HOME
FROM THE HOSPITAL
SEVERAL DAYS
AGO.

I WANTED
TO BE *THERE*
WHEN HE
ARRIVED.

BUT EVENTS
IN METROPOLIS...
WHAT'S LEFT OF
IT... KEPT ME THERE
LONGER THAN I
EXPECTED.

LOOK, SHARINA!
IT'S STEEL!
HE'S BACK!

HE AS
BIG AND
STRONG AS
HE LOOKS?

THE CHALLENGE!

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UHHHHH.

YOU KNOW,
I NEVER
ENVIED YOU
YOUR JOB BE-
FORE.

I'M THE
CAUTIOUS
TYPE, AND BEING
A COP IS JUST
TOO DANGEROUS.

BUT,
JUST THIS
ONCE, I
WOULDN'T MIND
PLAYING WITH
FIRE MY-
SELF...

... AND
VOLUNTEER
TO BE THE
LUCKY WOMAN
WHO FINDS OUT
WHAT'S...

"...BENEATH
THAT MASK!"

OUR
ATTEMPT TO
SET UP *BLACK
OPS* MAIN
NORTH AMERICAN
HEADQUARTERS...

...IN METROPOLIS
SEEMED LIKE OUR
BEST OPTION AT
THE TIME, BUT...

YES. THE
ARMOR
THAT LUTHOR WAS
FAILING IMPLIED
THAT SOON THERE
WOULD BE A
VACUUM BLACK
OPS COULD
FILL.

BUT METROPOLIS
IS *DESTROYED*
NOW AND NOT
WORTH THE EFFORT.

IT'S ONLY
THANKS TO
TRINITY THAT
WE GOT OUT
OF IT ALIVE."

"THE
"WORLDS
COLLIDE"
CROSS-OVER

AT
LEAST OUR
WASHINGTON
HEADQUARTERS
IS ALMOST
FINISHED...

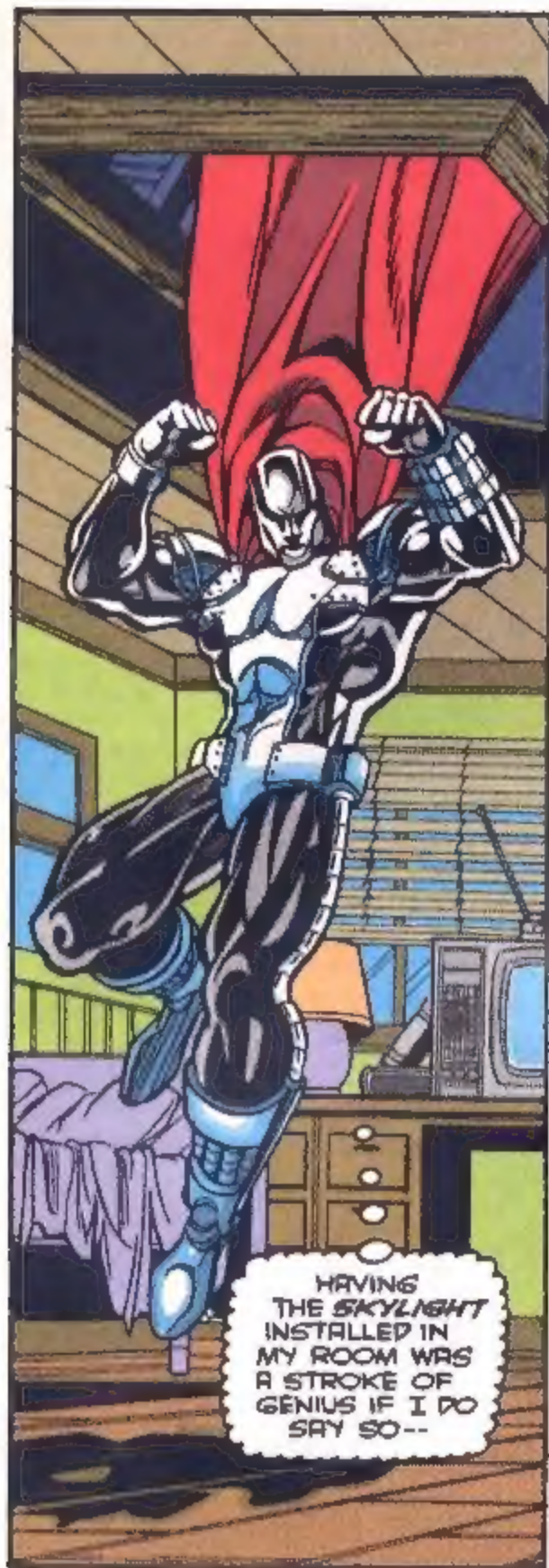
...SINCE IT
WAS ALWAYS
OUR *FALL-
BACK* POSITION
IN CASE OF
TROUBLE.

AND IT
HAS ITS AD-
VANTAGES.

FOR ONE, I
WILL BE BETTER
ABLE TO INFLU-
ENCE *AMERICAN*
POLICY FROM
HERE.

OF COURSE,
STEEL
ALSO IS IN
WASHINGTON.

BUT
NOT FOR
LONG.



HAVING THE SKYLIGHT INSTALLED IN MY ROOM WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS IF I DO SAY SO--



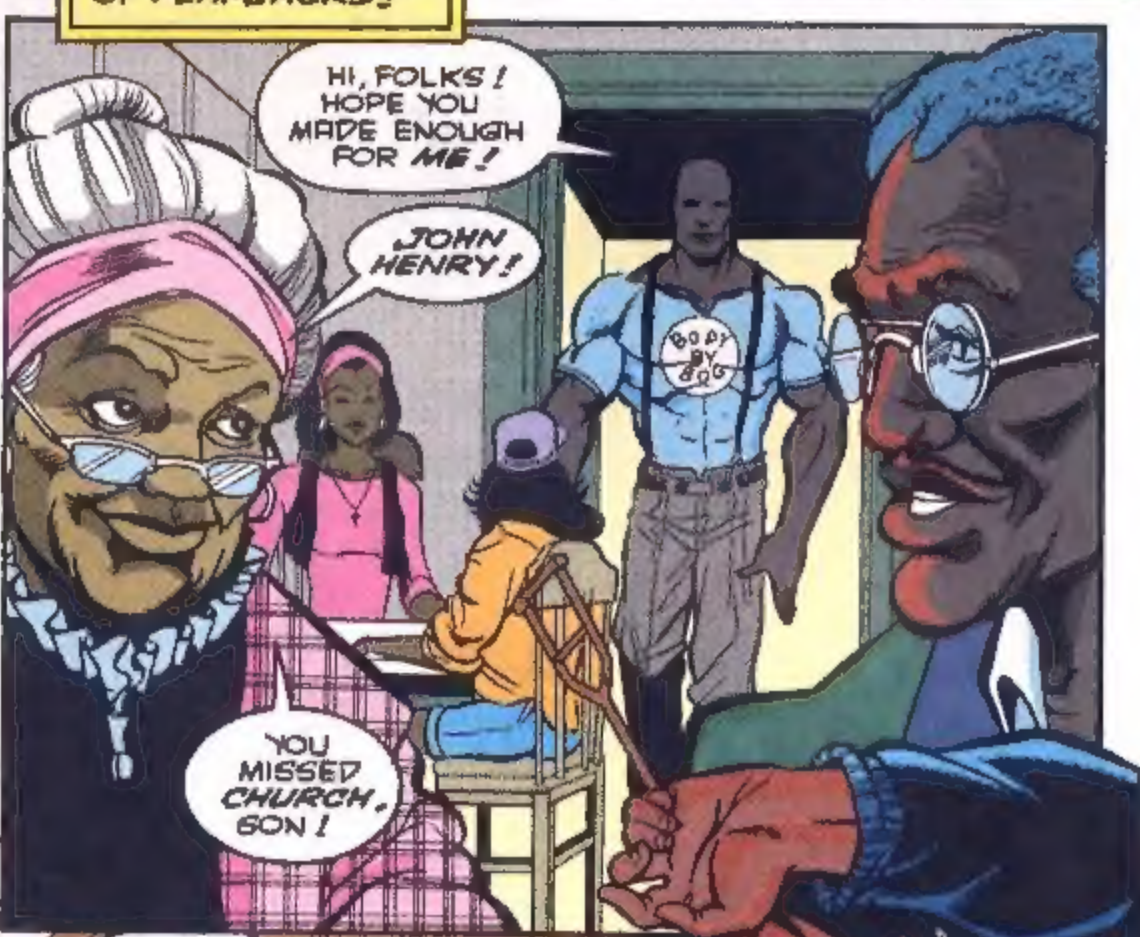
WHAT'S THAT?

MMMMM! SMELLS LIKE COFFEE... AND BACON FRYING...

CAN'T WAIT TO GET THE ARMOR OFF, STEP INTO THE SHOWER...

IN METROPOLIS I'D LOST TRACK OF WHAT DAY IT WAS, BUT NOW I KNOW. IT SMELLS LIKE SUNDAY MORNING.

"...AND HEAD DOWNSTAIRS FOR A HEPPING STACK OF FLAPJACKS!"



HI, FOLKS! HOPE YOU MADE ENOUGH FOR ME!

JOHN HENRY!

YOU MISSED CHURCH, SON!

SORRY, GRANDMA! I GOT HOME AS SOON AS I COULD!

BUT WHILE I WAS AWAY, I'VE LEARNED WHAT HEAVEN IS--

...AT LEAST, TO ME.

AND WHAT IS THAT, BOY?

IT'S COMING HOME! AND BEING HERE WITH ALL OF YOU!



YEAH... RIGHT.



NOBODY MAKES PANCAKES LIKE **GRANDMA BESS**, DO THEY, TYKE?

THEY'RE GREAT.

YOU'RE USING THAT **WHEELCHAIR** PRETTY WELL.

I GUESS.



I GO TO **PHYSICAL THERAPY** AND **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**, TOO.

THE **THERAPISTS** TAUGHT ME.

SOMEDAY... MAYBE... THEY'LL TRY TO TEACH ME TO **WALK** AGAIN.

SEE, **GRANDMA BESS** HAD WORKMEN MAKE THE **DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM DOOR** WIDER...

...SO MY **WHEELCHAIR** WOULD FIT THROUGH.



HERE'S MY **NEW ROOM**. I USED TO SHARE A ROOM UPSTAIRS WITH **PACO**...

...BUT I CAN'T GO UPSTAIRS NOW UNLESS SOMEBODY **CARRIES ME**.



JEM HELPS ME GO UP SOMETIMES, THOUGH.

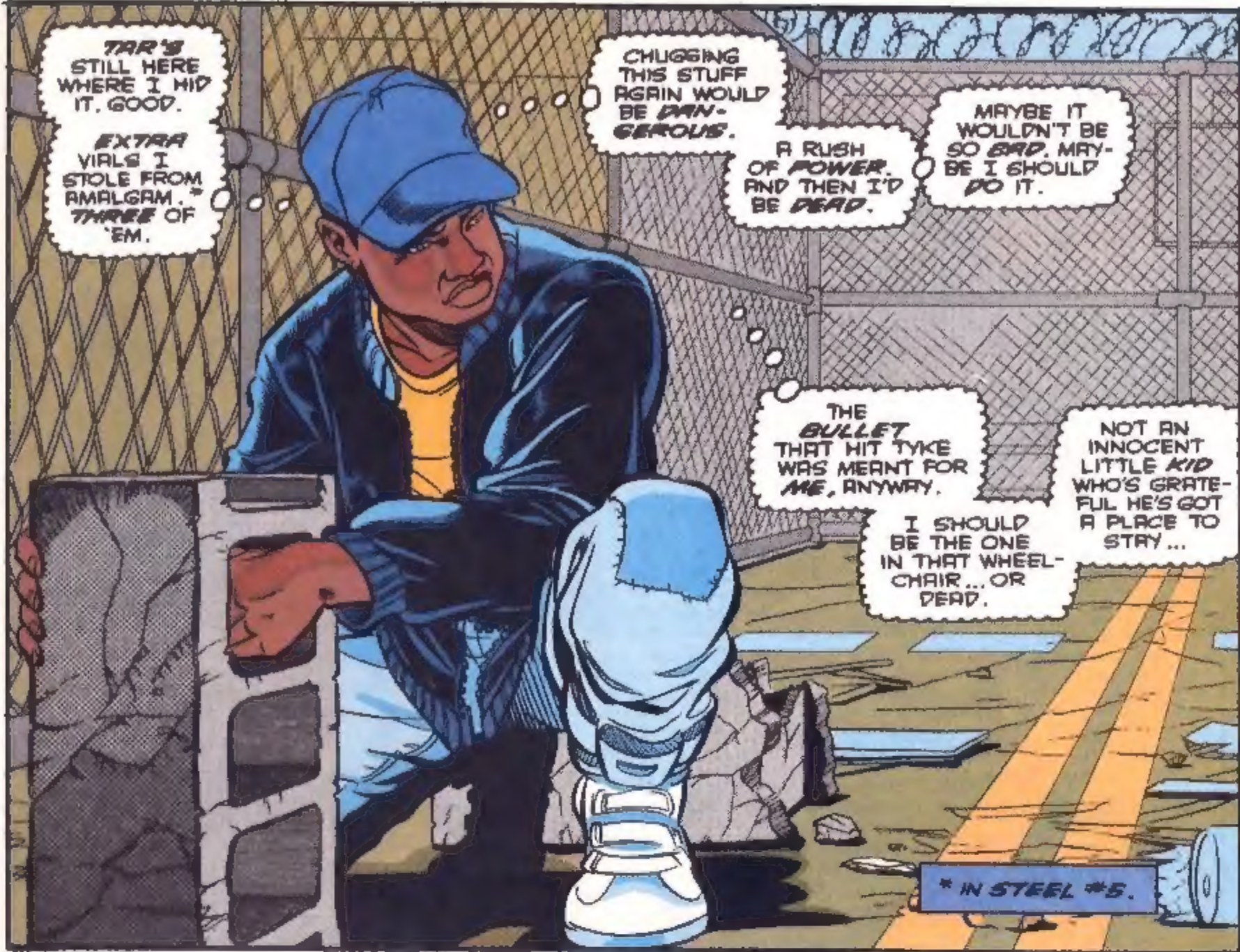
SINCE I'M A **FOSTER KID**, I GUESS I'M LUCKY YOU ALL STILL **WANT ME**.



OF COURSE WE **WANT** YOU.

WHEN I WAS IN THE **HOSPITAL**, I KEPT TELLING MYSELF... ONCE I GET **HOME** EVERYTHING WOULD BE THE **SAME** AS IT WAS 'FORE THOSE GUYS **SHOT ME**.

BUT IT **ISN'T**, IS IT? AND IT **AIN'T NEVER** GONNA BE THAT WAY AGAIN!



TAR'S STILL HERE WHERE I HID IT. GOOD.

EXTRA VIALS I STOLE FROM AMALGAM. THREE OF 'EM.

CHUGGING THIS STUFF AGAIN WOULD BE DANGEROUS.

A RUSH OF POWER. AND THEN I'D BE DEAD.

MAYBE IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD. MAYBE I SHOULD DO IT.

THE BULLET THAT HIT TYKE WAS MEANT FOR ME, ANYWAY.

I SHOULD BE THE ONE IN THAT WHEEL-CHAIR... OR DEAD.

NOT AN INNOCENT LITTLE KID WHO'S GRATEFUL HE'S GOT A PLACE TO STAY...

* IN STEEL #5.



...AND WHO THANKS ME WHEN I CARRY HIM UPSTAIRS.

EXCEPT...

THAT'S NOT WHAT MARY WOULD SAY. OR UNCLE JOHN. OR GRANDMA.



THEY'D SAY DON'T DO IT.

THEY'D BE SAD. BUT THEY'D GET OVER IT.

I THINK.



I'LL JUST KEEP THE TAR WITH ME, GOD. TILL MAYBE YOU GIVE ME A SIGN... ONE WAY OR ANOTHER... AND TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO.



THANKS FOR SEEING ME ON A SUNDAY, DR. QUICK.

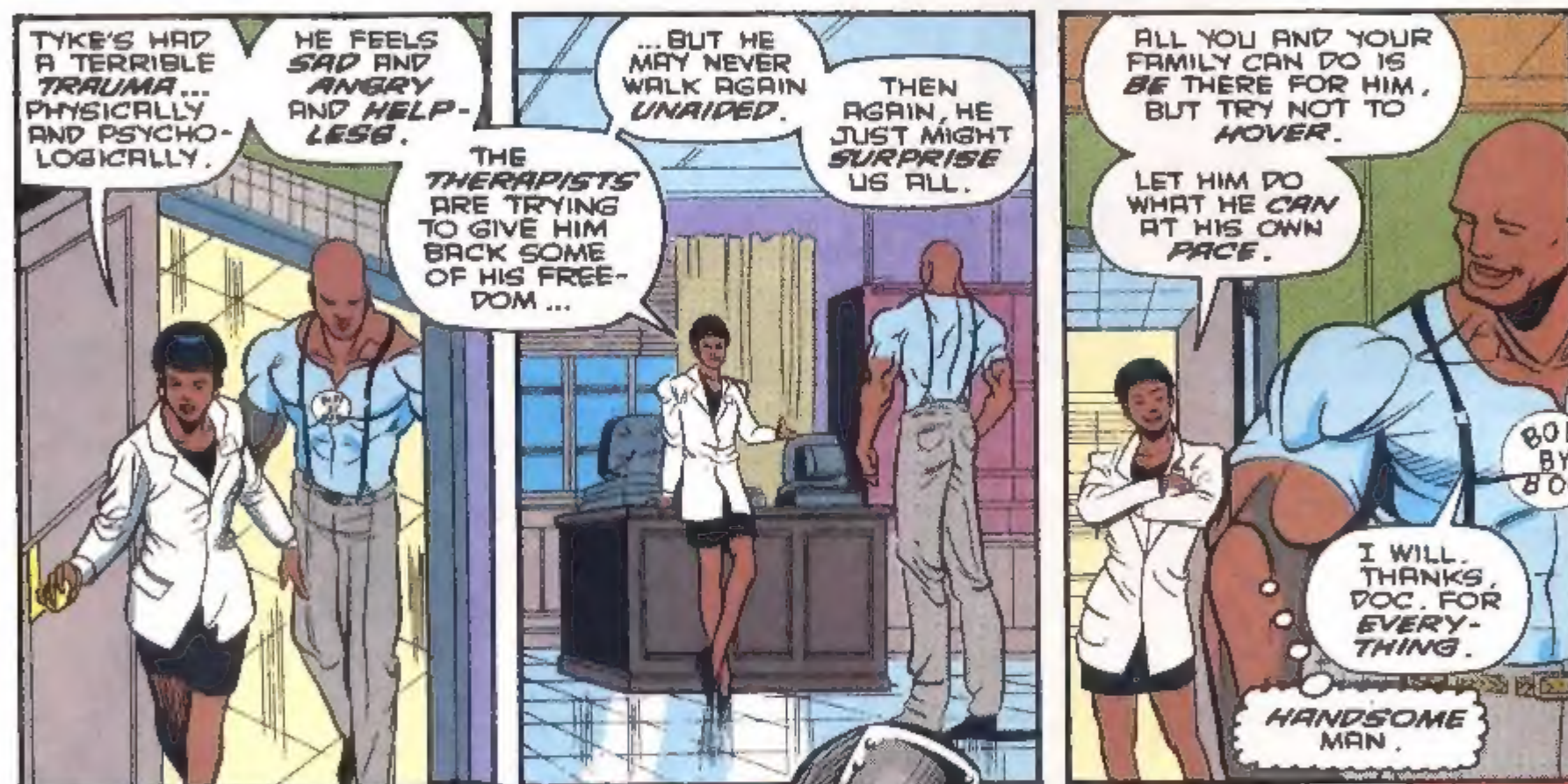
NO PROBLEM. I HAD TO BE HERE TO CHECK ON SOME PATIENTS ANYWAY.

I WAS OUT OF TOWN WHEN TYKE CAME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL.

I HADN'T REALIZED HE'D BE SO ...DE-PRESSED.

COME ON INTO MY OFFICE. WE'LL TALK.

THAT'S PRETTY NORMAL UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.



TYKE'S HAD A TERRIBLE TRAUMA... PHYSICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY.

HE FEELS SAD AND ANGRY AND HELP-LESS.

...BUT HE MAY NEVER WALK AGAIN UNAIDED.

THEN AGAIN, HE JUST MIGHT SURPRISE US ALL.

THE THERAPISTS ARE TRYING TO GIVE HIM BACK SOME OF HIS FREE-DOM ...

ALL YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN DO IS BE THERE FOR HIM, BUT TRY NOT TO HOVER.

LET HIM DO WHAT HE CAN AT HIS OWN PACE.

I WILL, THANKS, DOC. FOR EVERY-THING.

HANDSOME MAN.



FIRST I'LL VISIT SHAUNA... FILL HER IN ON BLACK OPS' DESTRUCTION.

THEN I'LL JOIN...

"...GRANDMA AND TYKE AND THE OTHERS IN THE PARK."

WE'RE GOING TO THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL NEXT, TYKE.

MOM'S BROTHER STEVEN WAS KILLED IN THE WAR BACK IN 1973.

HIS NAME'S ON THE MEMORIAL, TYKE. IT--

EXCUSE ME, HAVE YOU SEEN A BUNCH OF KIDS UP AHEAD?

WE'RE HERE ON OUR SENIOR TRIP AND SOMEHOW WE'VE GOTTEN SEPARATED.

NO, WE--

YOU KNOW... YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY GRANDSON WHEN HE WAS A BOY.

THAT'S FUNNY. YOU LOOK LIKE MY GRANDMA, TOO...

...ONLY HER HAIR'S BLACK.

ANYWAY, THANK YOU, MA'AM.

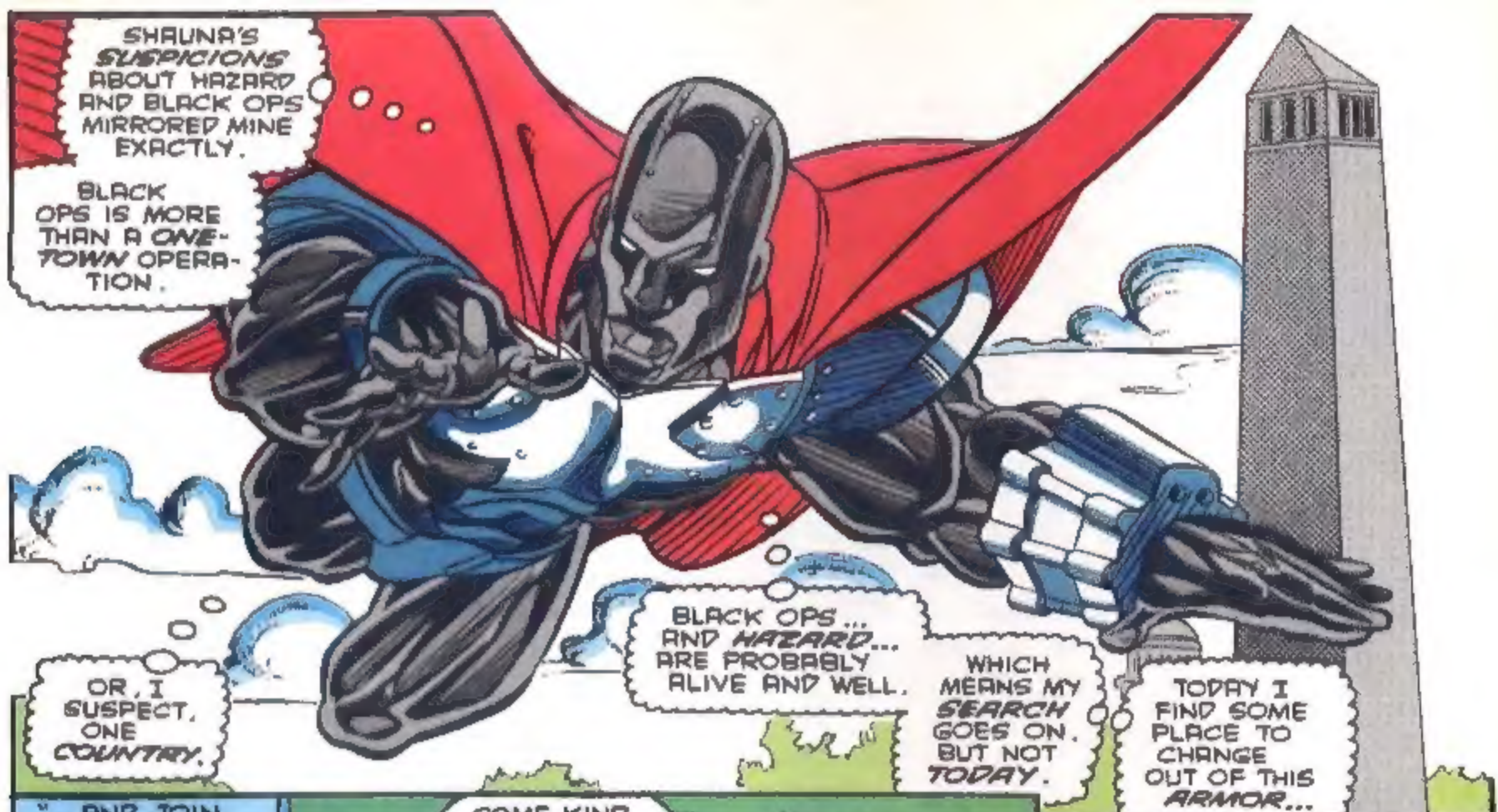
MY CLASS IS PROBABLY UP AHEAD SOMEWHERE.

SO STEEL'S FAMILY IS HERE.

AND IF OUR REPORTS CONTINUE TO BE ACCURATE, STEEL WILL ARRIVE HERE SOON.

AND WE WILL BE READY FOR HIM. WILL WE NOT, SHELL-GAME?

SURE, MANUEL. NO PROBLEM.



SHAUNA'S SUSPICIONS ABOUT HAZARD AND BLACK OPS MIRRORED MINE EXACTLY.

BLACK OPS IS MORE THAN A ONE-TOWN OPERATION.

BLACK OPS... AND HAZARD... ARE PROBABLY ALIVE AND WELL.

WHICH MEANS MY SEARCH GOES ON. BUT NOT TODAY.

TODAY I FIND SOME PLACE TO CHANGE OUT OF THIS ARMOR...

OR, I SUSPECT, ONE COUNTRY.

"...AND JOIN GRANDMA AND THE KIDS IN THE PARK BELOW!"

SOME KIND OF GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENT?

EXPERIMENT? WHERE ARE YOU FROM THAT YOU NEVER HEARD OF...

...THE MAN CALLED STEEL!

WOW! WHAT'S THAT?



THERE HE IS! I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO ARRIVE IN ARMOR...

...THOUGH I WAS PREPARED FOR THE POSSIBILITY.

SHELLGAME, DISMANTLE IT.

MY PLEASURE.



WHAT
THE
HECK?!!?

MY
JETS!
THEY'VE
CUT
OFF!

I'M
FALLING!

NO!
THEY
KICKED IN
AGAIN!

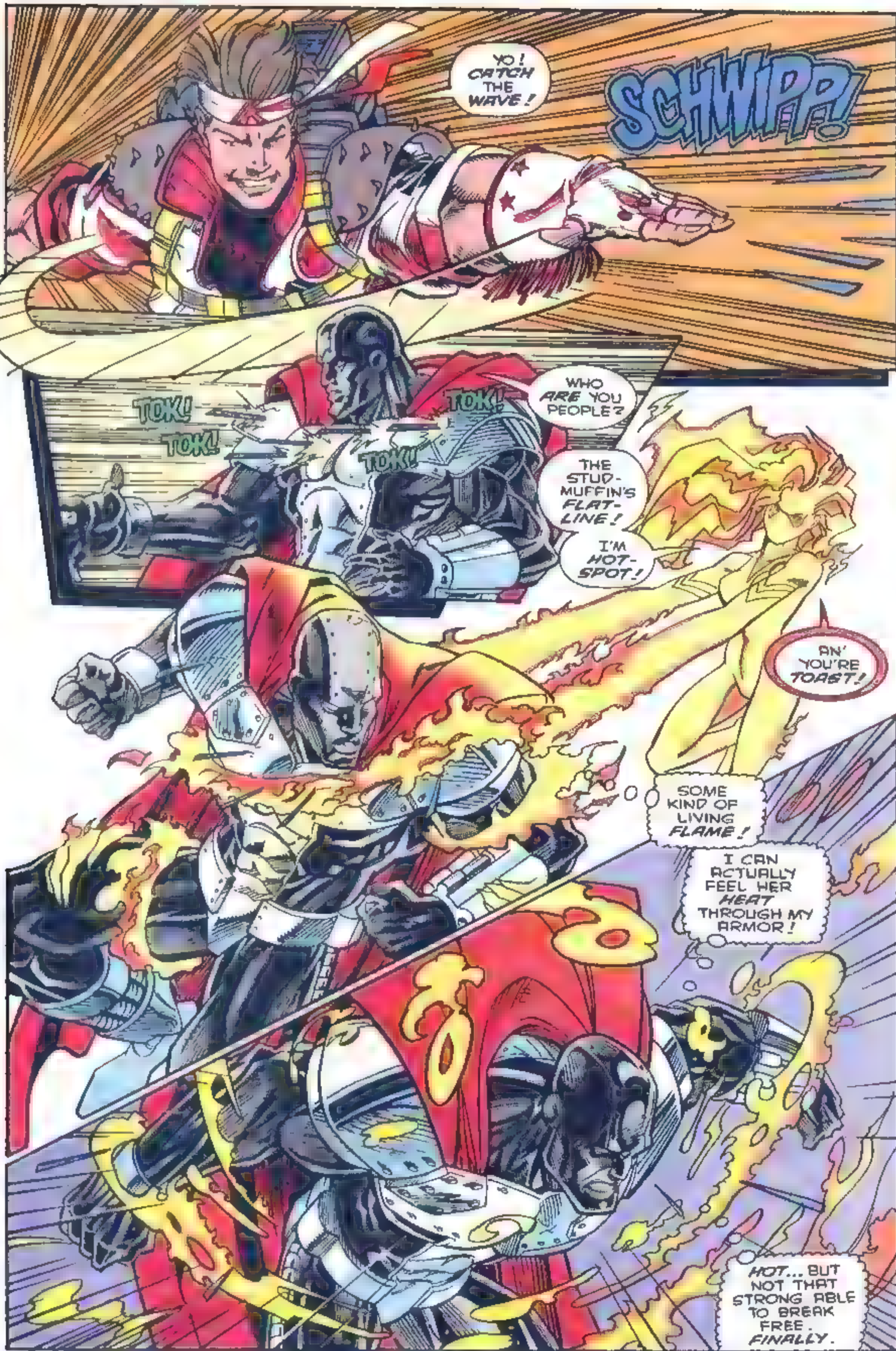
BUT WHY?
WHAT
HAPPENED?

FAR OUT!
THAT GUY
IS REALLY
COOL!

HE IS,
ISN'T HE?

THANK
HEAVEN
THAT
BOY'S ALL
RIGHT!





YO!
CATCH
THE
WAVE!

SCHWIPP!

TOK!
TOK!

WHO
ARE YOU
PEOPLE?

THE
STUD-
MUFFIN'S
FLAT-
LINE!

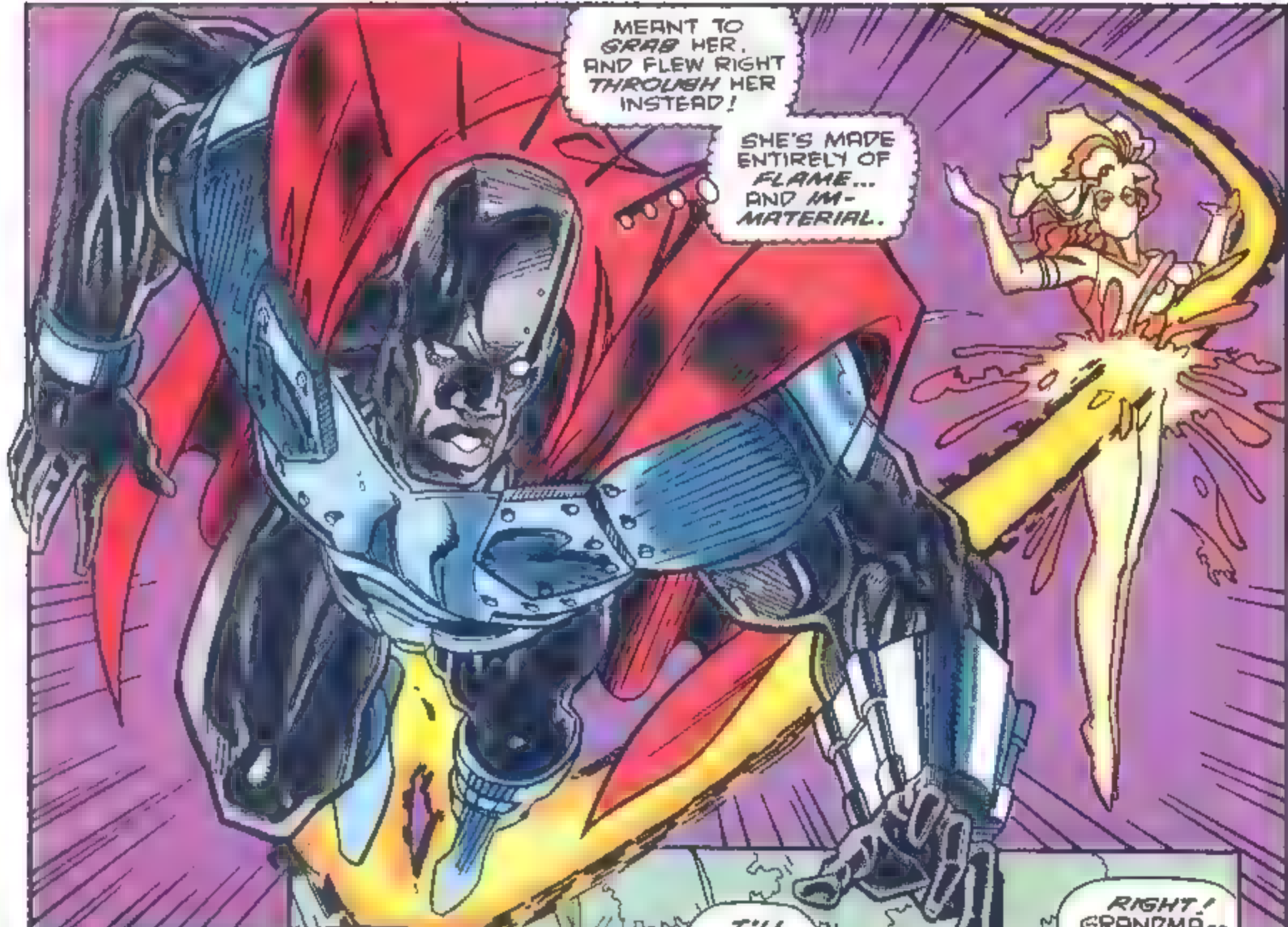
I'M
HOT-
SPOT!

AN'
YOU'RE
TOAST!

SOME
KIND OF
LIVING
FLAME!

I CAN
ACTUALLY
FEEL HER
HEAT
THROUGH MY
ARMOR!

HOT... BUT
NOT THAT
STRONG ABLE
TO BREAK
FREE.
FINALLY.



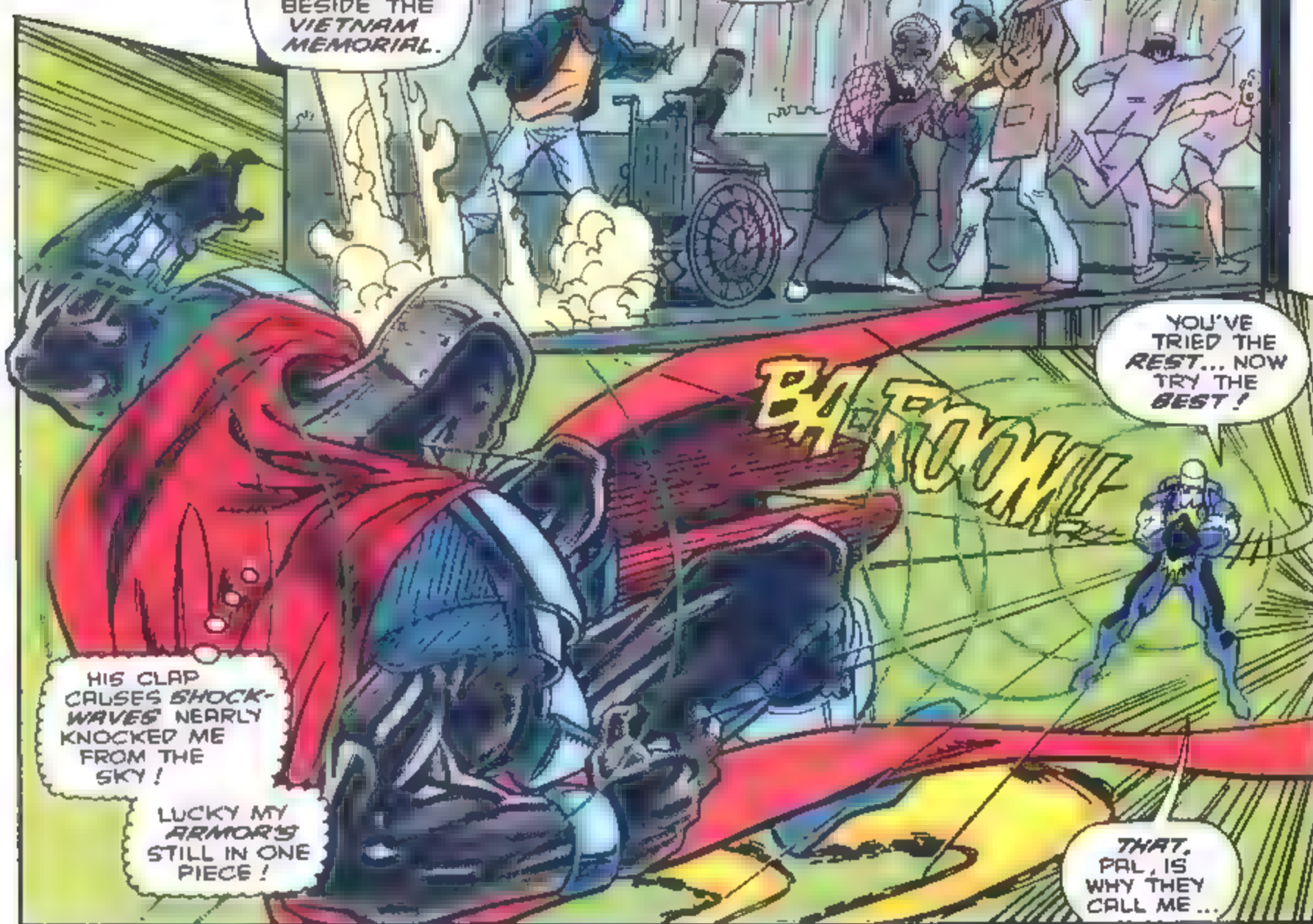
MEANT TO GRAB HER,
AND FLEW RIGHT
THROUGH HER
INSTEAD!

SHE'S MADE
ENTIRELY OF
FLAME...
AND IM-
MATERIAL.

NAT, GET
GRANDMA IN
THE TRENCH
BESIDE THE
VIETNAM
MEMORIAL.

I'LL
TAKE
CARE OF
TYKE!

RIGHT!
GRANDMA--
COME ON!

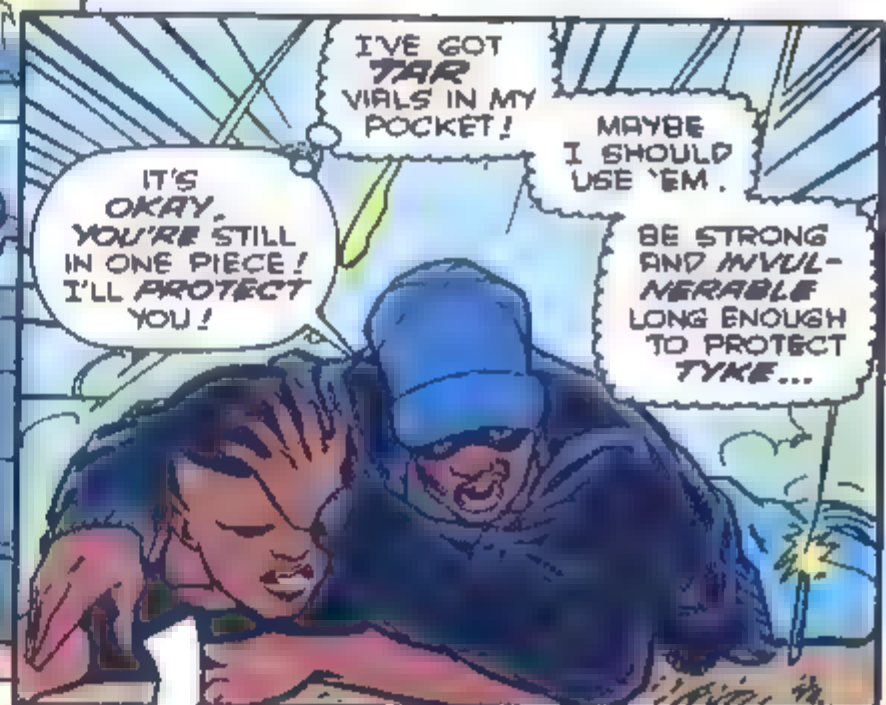
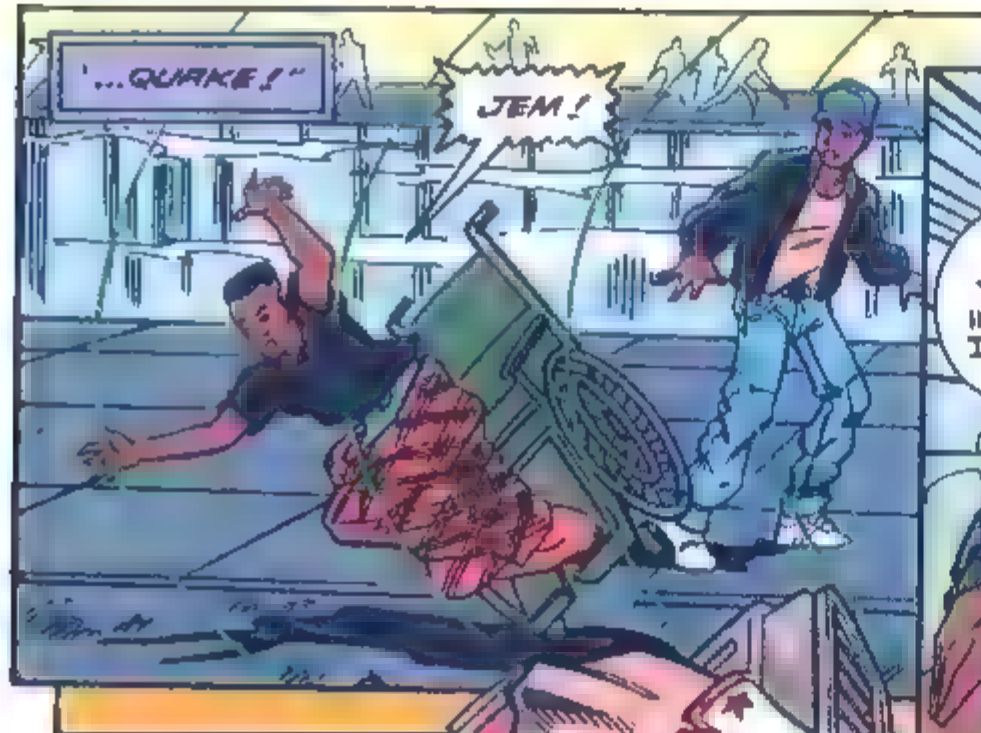


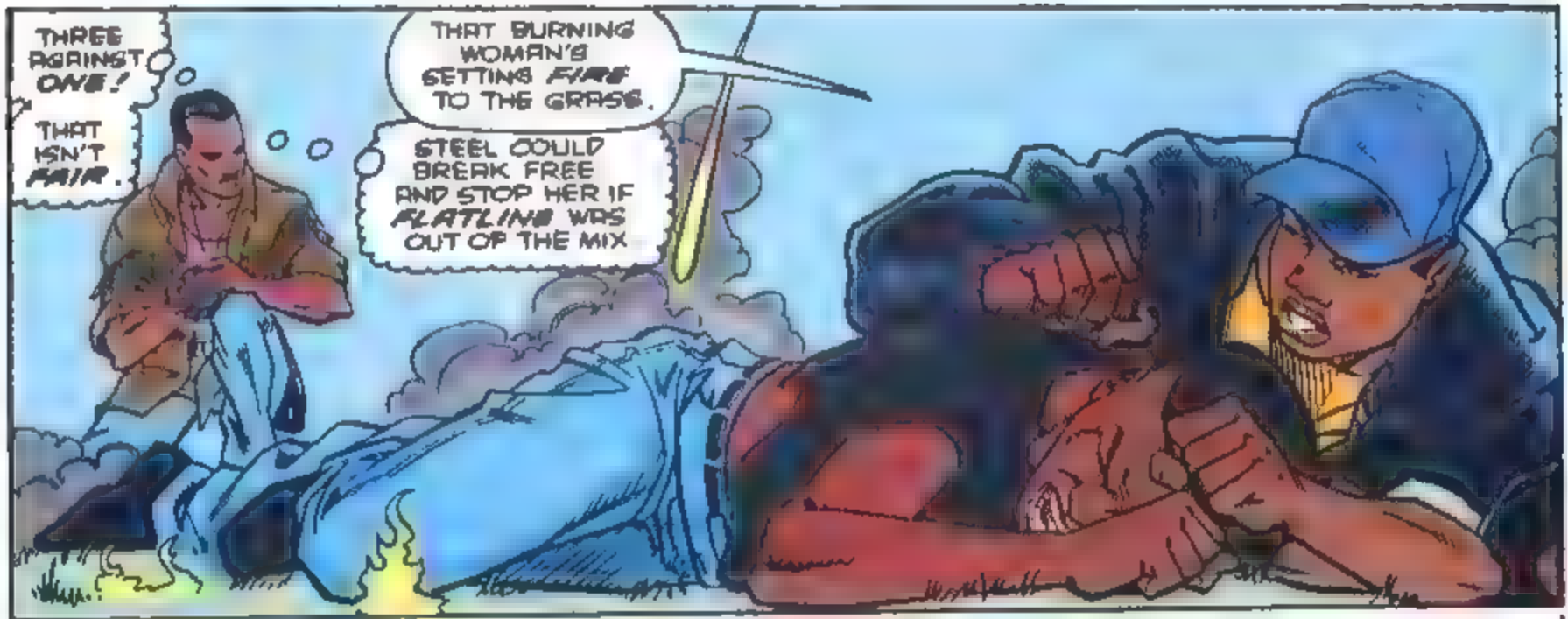
YOU'VE
TRIED THE
REST... NOW
TRY THE
BEST!

HIS CLAP
CAUSES SHOCK-
WAVES NEARLY
KNOCKED ME
FROM THE
SKY!

LUCKY MY
ARMOR'S
STILL IN ONE
PIECE!

THAT,
PAL, IS
WHY THEY
CALL ME ...





THREE
AGAINST
ONE!
THAT
ISN'T
FAIR.

THAT BURNING
WOMAN'S
SETTING FIRE
TO THE GRASS.

STEEL COULD
BREAK FREE
AND STOP HER IF
FLATLINE WAS
OUT OF THE MIX



AND IF MY
ARM HOLDS
OUT, I JUST
MIGHT BE ABLE
TO HELP!

RIGHT ON
SCHEDULE!

KLOONK!

OWWWW!

...AND
WATER AND
FIRE ARE A
NOTORIOUSLY
BAD MIX!

SPLASH!

MAN
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU MADE
THAT
PITCH!

NEXT
STEP'S
OBVIOUS!

THE
REFLECTING
POOL IS
RIGHT BELOW
US...

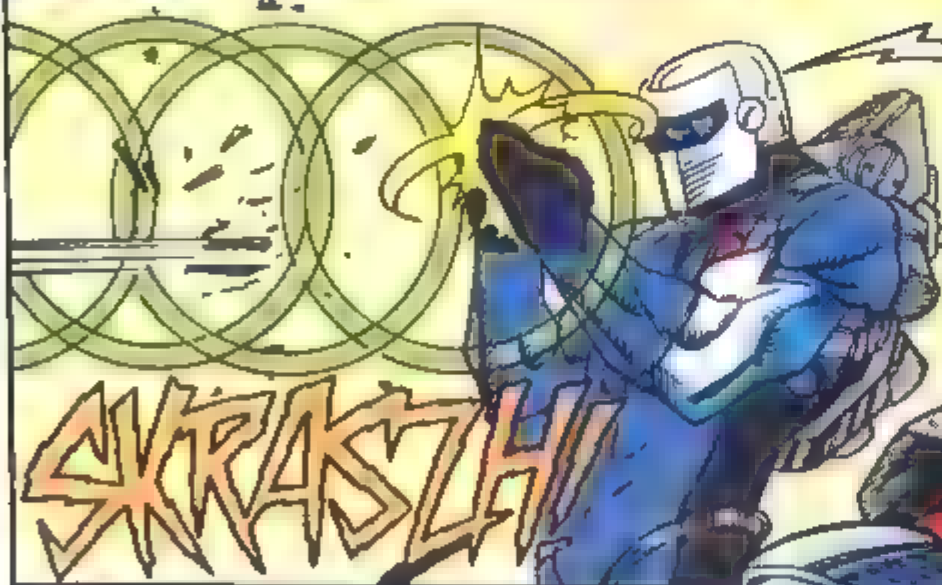
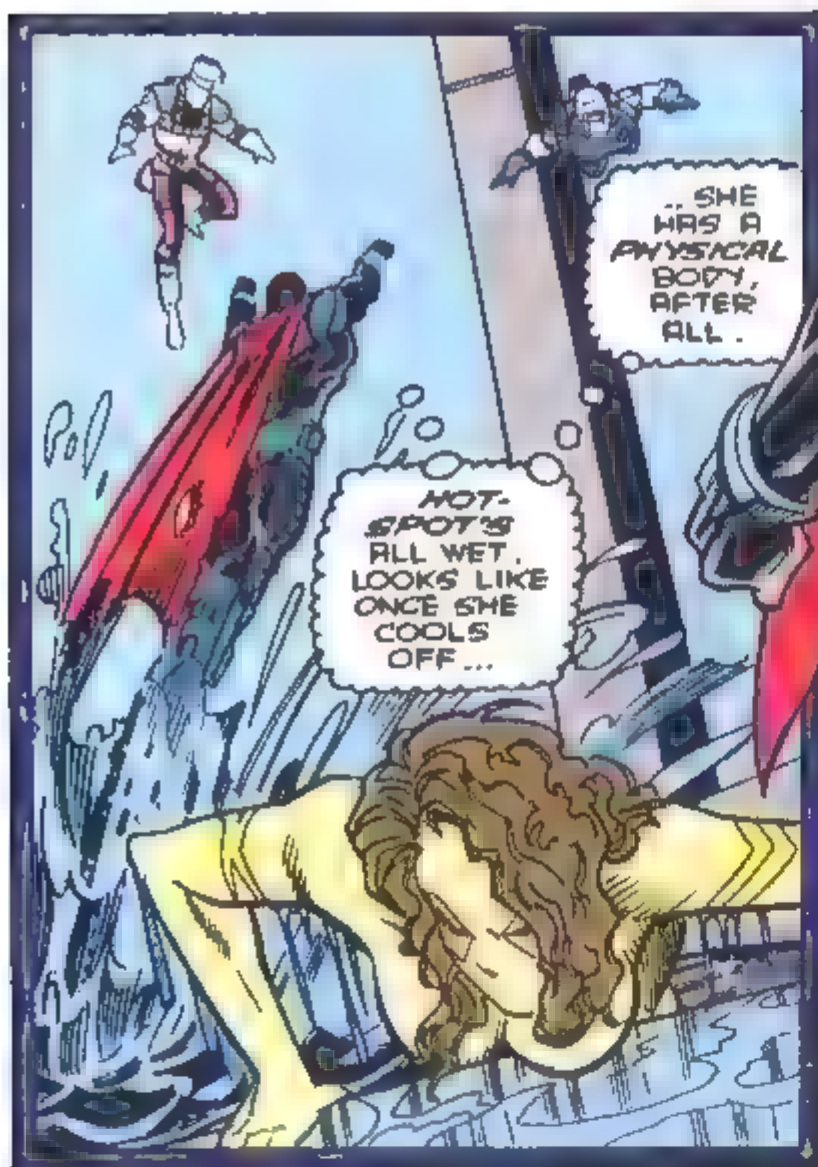
HE
NEITHER!

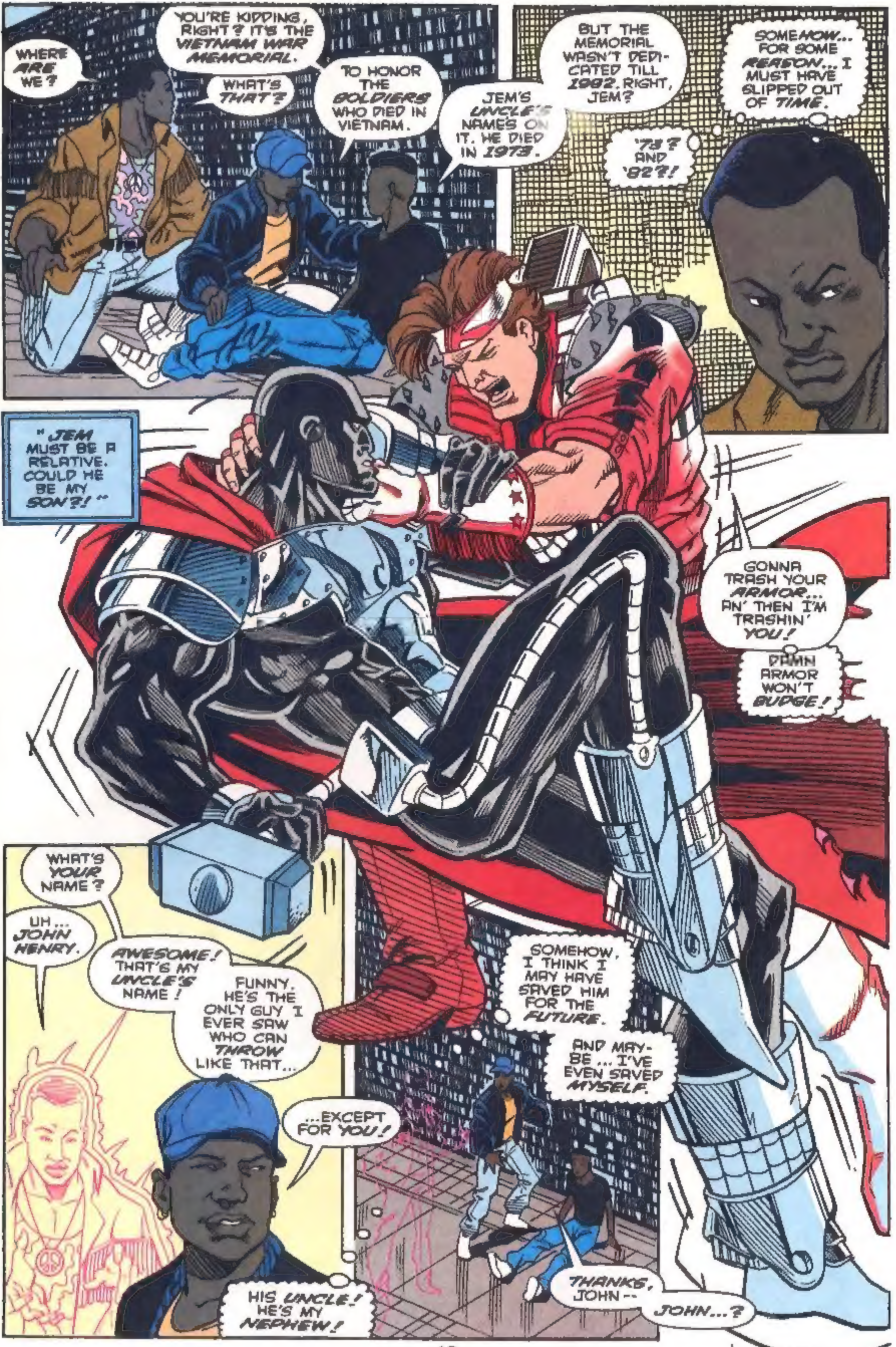
IT WAS
A LONG
SHOT! I'M
JUST GLAD IT
WORKED!

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

JEMAH
IRONS.

IRONS?!!
BUT... THAT'S
MY NAME,
TOO!





WHERE ARE WE?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? IT'S THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL.

WHAT'S THAT?

TO HONOR THE SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN VIETNAM.

JEM'S UNCLE'S NAMES ON IT. HE DIED IN 1973.

BUT THE MEMORIAL WASN'T DEDICATED TILL 1992. RIGHT, JEM?

SOMEHOW... FOR SOME REASON... I MUST HAVE SLIPPED OUT OF TIME.

'73? AND '92?!

"JEM MUST BE A RELATIVE. COULD HE BE MY SON?!"

GONNA TRASH YOUR ARMOR... AN' THEN I'M TRASHIN' YOU!

DAMN ARMOR WON'T BUDGE!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

UH... JOHN HENRY.

AWESOME! THAT'S MY UNCLE'S NAME!

FUNNY. HE'S THE ONLY GUY I EVER SAW WHO CAN THROW LIKE THAT...

SOMEHOW, I THINK I MAY HAVE SAVED HIM FOR THE FUTURE.

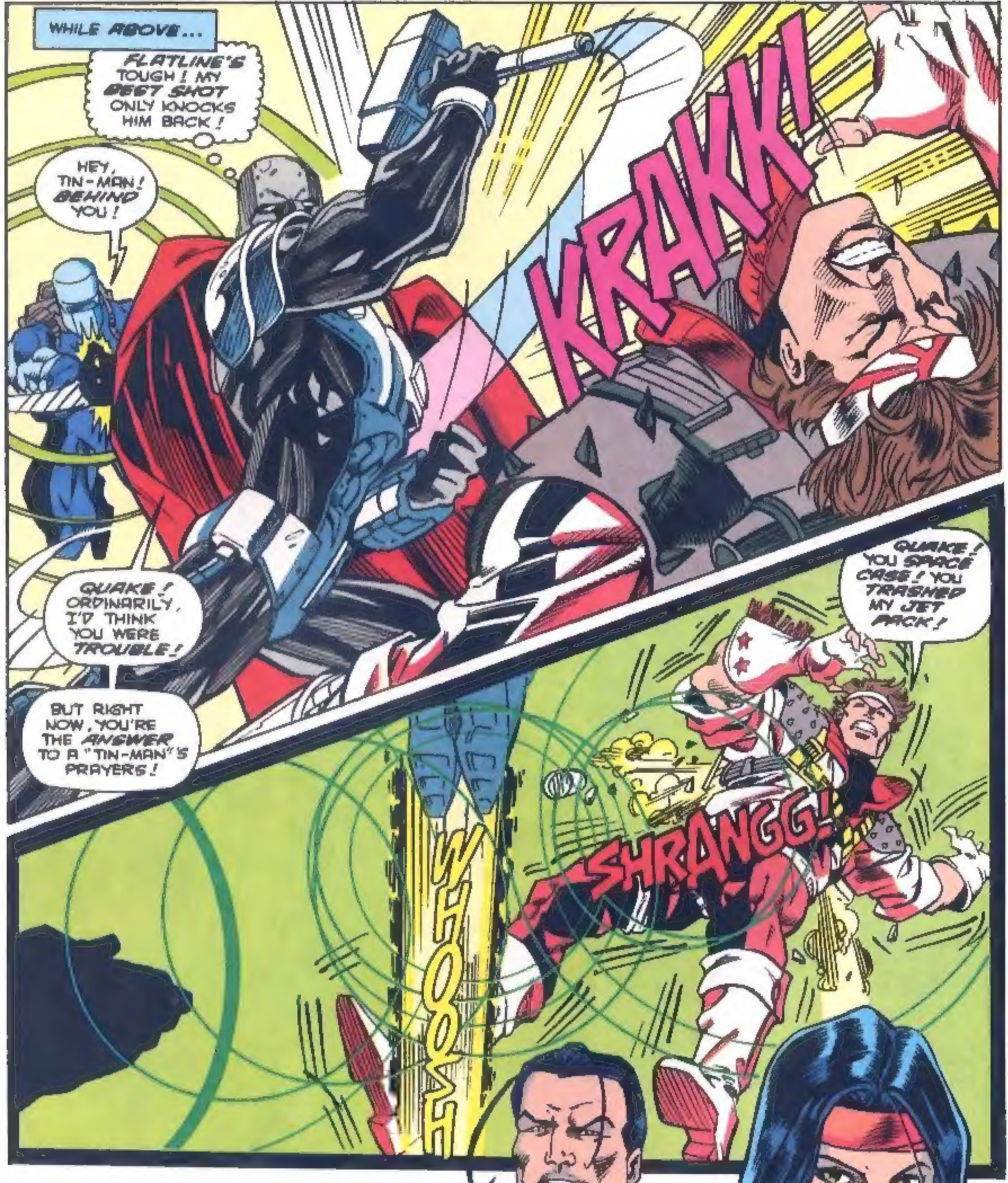
AND MAYBE... I'VE EVEN SAVED MYSELF.

...EXCEPT FOR YOU!

HIS UNCLE! HE'S MY NEPHEW!

THANKS, JOHN--

JOHN...?



WHILE ABOVE...

FLATLINE'S
TOUGH! MY
BEST SHOT
ONLY KNOCKS
HIM BACK!

HEY,
TIN-MAN!
BEHIND
YOU!

KRAKK!

QUAKE!
ORDINARILY,
I'D THINK
YOU WERE
TROUBLE!

BUT RIGHT
NOW, YOU'RE
THE ANSWER
TO A "TIN-MAN"'S
PRAYERS!

QUAKE!
YOU SPACE
CASE! YOU
TRASHED
MY JET
PACK!

SHRANGG!

WHOOH!

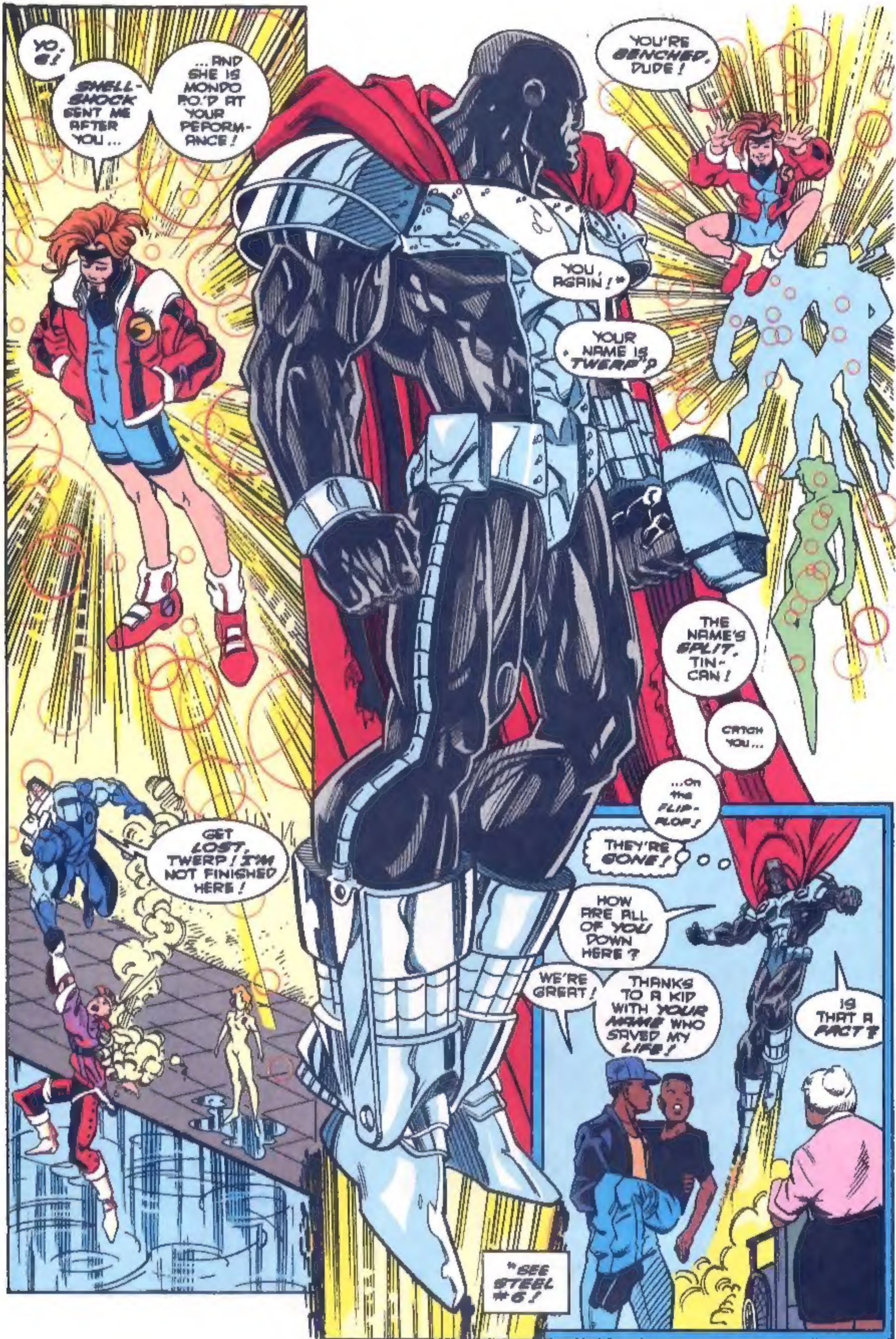


THAT'S
IT FOR
NOW! EITHER
STEEL GOT
LUCKY...

...OR HE'S
TOUGHER
THAN WE
BELIEVED!

OR MAYBE
OUR GUYS
NEED A FEW
MORE LESSONS
IN TEAM-
WORK!

SPLIT!
PULL THOSE
LOSERS
OUT OF
THERE!



YO!
6!

SHELL-
SHOCK
SENT ME
AFTER
YOU ...

... AND
SHE IS
MONDO
RO'D AT
YOUR
PERFORM-
ANCE!

YOU'RE
BENCHED,
DUDE!

YOU,
AGAIN!*

YOUR
NAME IS
TWERP?

THE
NAME'S
SPIT,
TIN-
CAN!

CATCH
YOU ...

... ON
THE
FLIP-
FLOP!

THEY'RE
GONE!

HOW
ARE ALL
OF YOU
DOWN
HERE?

WE'RE
GREAT!

THANKS
TO A KID
WITH YOUR
NAME WHO
SAVED MY
LIFE!

IS
THAT A
FACT?

*SEE
STEEL
#6!

YOU SAVED
MY LIFE,
JEM. IF YOU
WEREN'T THERE
I'D BE DEAD.

JEM'S THE
BEST ALMOST-
BROTHER IN THE
WORLD.

YES...
I THINK
MAYBE HE
IS!

HEY,
LOOK! IT'S
STEEL! COME
ON!

SO, I WON'T
TAKE THE TAP...
AT LEAST NOT
ANY TIME SOON.

HECK, IF I
WAS GONE,
WHO WOULD
CARRY TYKE
UPSTAIRS?

HEY,
STEEL! YOU
WERE AWE-
SOME!

SHELLGAME
COULDN'T DIS-
MANTLE STEEL'S
ARMOR...

...NOR
COULD
FLATLINE
RIP IT
APART.

GEE,
YOU'RE
SO
TALL!

YOU'RE
NUMBER
ONE IN MY
BOOK!

CAN I
HAVE YOUR
AUTO-
GRAPH?

CAN I
TOUCH
YOUR
CAPE?

HE NEEDS
ME TOO MUCH
FOR ME TO
TAKE STUPID
CHANCES.

THAT
ARMOR WAS
CREATED
THROUGH
AMER-
TEK...

...BUT IT
FUNCTIONS
MUCH BETTER
THAN ITS
ORIGINAL DE-
SIGN WOULD
SUGGEST.

IRONS
MUST HAVE
MADE SOME
MAJOR
MODIFICA-
TIONS.

I THINK
IT'S TIME TO
TAKE STEEL
OUT FOR
GOOD...

I THINK
IT'S TIME TO
TAKE THAT
ARMOR
BACK!

To Be Continued...